

Constructive Studies Qualifying Exam **Issues in Contemporary Theory**

The goal of the exam is to familiarize students with a range of key issues in contemporary theory. The exam will provide students with the requisite tools for sophisticated engagement with religious texts and practices while at the same time enabling them to reflect on the ways in which the study of religion contributes to contemporary theoretical debates.

In consultation with an examiner or examiners, students will be expected to choose four areas from among the following conceptual categories. Normally five works will be required in each of these four areas. Those interested in particular theoretical movements (e.g. psychoanalysis, feminist theory, queer theory) are encouraged to construct lists that cover the requisite four conceptual areas and provide a broad overview of the theoretical tradition. The conceptual categories for the exam are set; the book lists provided below, however, are exemplary rather than definitive. You will notice a number of authors and individual texts easily fit within more than one rubric (in fact, many more so than are noted here). This overlap may be reflected in exam questions and in your answers.

1. signification/discourse/semiotics

J. L. Austin, *How To Do Things With Words*
Roland Barthes, *Empire of Signs*
----- *Mythologies*
Emile Benveniste, *Problems in General Linguistics*
Pierre Bourdieu, *Language and Symbolic Power*
Judith Butler, *Excitable Speech: A Politics of the Performative*
Stanley Cavell, *Philosophical Passages: Wittgenstein, Emerson, Austin, Derrida*
Michel de Certeau, *Heterologies : Discourses on the Other The Mystic Fable: The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*
Gilles Deleuze, *Proust and Signs*
Jacques Derrida, *Of Grammatology*
----- *Writing and Difference*
----- *Margins of Philosophy*
Shoshana Felman, *The Scandal of the Speaking Body*
Michel Foucault, *The Order of Things: An Archeology of the Human Sciences The Archeology of Knowledge and the Discourse on Language*
Jürgen Habermas, *The Theory of Communicative Action*
Luce Irigaray, *Le langage des dements*
----- *Parler n'est jamais neuter*
----- *Sexes et genres à travers les langues: Éléments de communication sexuée*
Roman Jakobson, *On Language*
Fredric Jameson, *The Prison-House of Language: A Critical Account of Structuralism and Russian Formalism*
Julia Kristeva, *Desire in Language*

----- *The Revolution in Poetic Language*
Jacques Lacan, *Écrits: A Selection*
Benjamin Lee, *Talking Heads: Language, Metalanguage, and the Semiotics of Subjectivity*
Charles Sanders Peirce, *Selected Writings*, ed. Philip P. Weiner (selections)
Ferdinand de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistic*

2. agency/subjectivity

Giorgio Agamben, *The Coming Community*
----- *Infancy and History: Essays on the Destruction of Experience*
Georges Bataille, *Inner Experience*
----- *Guilty*
Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
Seyla Benhabib, *Situating the Self: Gender, Community and Postmodernism in Contemporary Ethics*
Seyla Benhabib, Judith Butler, Nancy Fraser, and Drucilla Cornell,
Feminist Contentions: A Philosophical Exchange
Homi Bhabha, *The Location of Culture*
Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*
----- *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex"*
----- *The Psychic Life of Power: Theories in Subjection*
Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*
Sigmund Freud and Josef Brauer, *Studies on Hysteria*
Sigmund Freud, "The Aetiology of Hysteria," *Standard Edition*, Vol. 3
----- *The Ego and the Id*
----- *The Interpretation of Dreams*
----- "Mourning and Melancholia," *Standard Edition*, Vol. 14
----- "On Narcissism: An Introduction," *Standard Edition*, Vol. 14
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*
----- *Ethics Subjectivity and Truth : Essential Works of Foucault, 1954-1984 Vol.1*
----- *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, Vol. 1
----- *The History of Sexuality: The Use of Pleasure*, Vol. 2
Ian Hacking, *Rewriting the Soul: Multiple Personality and the Sciences of Memory*
Luce Irigaray, *An Ethics of Sexual Difference*
----- *I Love to You: Sketch of a Possible Felicity*
----- *Speculum of the Other Woman*
----- *Sexes and Genealogies*
Alexander Kojève, *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel*
Julia Kristeva, *Powers of Horror*
Jacques Lacan, *Écrits : A Selection*
Saba Mahmood, *Politics of Piety : The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*
Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*
Jean-Paul Sartre, *Being and Nothingness* (selections)

----- *Existentialism is a Humanism*

Kaja Silverman, *On the Threshold of the Visible World*

Gayatri Chakravarty Spivak, *The Post-colonial Critic : Interviews, Strategies, Dialogue*
(selections)

Charles Taylor, *Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity*

Trinh T. Minh-ha, *Woman, Native, Other: Writing Postcoloniality and Feminism*

Slavoy Zizek, *The Ticklish Subject: The Absent Center of Political Ontology*

3. power/authority

Lila Abu-Lughud, "The Romance of Resistance: Tracing Transformations of Power

Through Bedouin Women," *American Ethnologists* 17 (1990): 41-55

Giorgio Agamben, *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*

Amy Allen, *The Power of Feminist Theory*

Louis Althusser, *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*

Michèle Barrett, *The Politics of Truth: From Marx to Foucault*

Jessica Benjamin, *The Bonds of Love: Psychoanalysis, Feminism, and the Problem of Domination*

Maurice Bloch, *Ritual, History and Power*

----- *Prey Into Hunter: the Politics of Religious Experience*

----- *From Belssing to Violence: History and Ideology in the Circumcision Ritual of the Merina of Madagascar*

Pierre Bourdieu, *The Logic of Practice*

----- *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste*

Wendy Brown, *States of Injury: Power and Freedom in Late Modernity*

Judith Butler, *The Psychic Life of Power: Theories in Subjection*

Judith Butler, Ernesto Laclau, Slavoj Zizek, *Contingency, Hegemony, Universality: Contemporary Dialogues on the Left*

Chaturvedi, Vinayak, ed., *Mapping Subaltern Studies and the Postcolonial*

Michel Foucault, *Abnormal: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1974-1975*

----- *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of a Prison*

----- *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction, Vol. 1*

----- *Power: Essential Works of Foucault 1954-84, Vol. 3*

----- *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977*

Nancy Fraser, *Unruly Practices: Power, Discourse, and Gender in Contemporary Social Theory*

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*

----- *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*

Antonio Gramsci, *The Prison Notebooks*

Ranjit Guha and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, eds., *Selected Subaltern Studies*

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Empire*

Saidiya V. Hartman, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America*

Max Horkheimer and Theodor W. Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*

Fredric Jameson, *The Political Unconscious: Narrative as a Socially Symbolic Act*

Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe, *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy: Towards a Radical Democratic Politics*

Bruce Lincoln, *Authority: Construction and Corrosion*

Rosalind O'Hanlon, "Recovering the Subject: Subaltern Studies and Histories of Resistance in Colonial South Asia," *Modern Asian Studies* 22 (1988): 189-224

Rosalind O'Hanlon and David Washbrook, "After Orientalism: Culture, Criticism, and Politics in the Third World," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 34 (1992): 141-67

Gyan Prakash, "Writing Post-Orientalist Histories of the Third World: Perspectives from Indian Historiography," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 32 (1990): 383-408

Gyan Prakash, "Can the 'Subaltern' Ride? A Reply to O'Hanlon and Washbrook," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 34 (1992): 168-84

Edward Said, *Orientalism*
----- *Culture and Imperialism*

Gayatri Chakravarty Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, ed. Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg

Slavoj Zizek, *The Sublime Object of Ideology*

4. bodies/practices

Talal Asad, *Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam*
----- *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity*

Catherine Bell, *Catherine Ritual Theory, Ritual Practice*

Leo Bersani, *The Freudian Body: Psychoanalysis and Art*

Susan Bordo, *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body*

Pierre Bourdieu, *The Logic of Practice*

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble : Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*
----- *Bodies That Matter : On the Discursive Limits of « Sex »*

Mary Carruthers, *The Craft of Thought: Meditation, Rhetoric, and the Making of Images, 400-1200*

Michel de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*

Lennard Davis, *Enforcing Normalcy: Disability, Deafness, and the Body*

Lennard Davis, ed., *The Disability Studies Reader*

Michel Foucault, Michel, *Discipline and Punish*
----- *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, vol. 1
----- *The History of Sexuality: The Use of Pleasure*, vol. 2

Maira Gatens, *Imaginary Bodies: Ethics, Power, and Corporeality*

Elizabeth Grosz, *Volatile Bodies: Toward a Corporeal Feminism*

Pierre Hadot, *Philosophy as a Way of Life*

Judith Halberstam and Ira Livingston, ed., *Posthuman Bodies*

Drew Leder, *The Absent Body*

Marcel Mauss, « Body Techniques, » in *Sociology and Psychology: Essays* (trans. B. Brewster)

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Phenomenology of Perception* (selections)

----- *The Visible and the Invisible*

David Mitchell and Sharon L. Snyder, eds., *The Body and Physical Difference*
Cary Nederman, "Nature, Ethics, and the Doctrine of Habitus: Aristotelian Moral
Psychology in the Twelfth Century," *Traditio* 45 (1989-1990): 87-110.

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*

Mary Poovey, *Making a Social Body: British Cultural Formation, 1830-1864*

Public Culture 35 (2001). Special issue, "The Critical Limits of Embodiment: Reflections
on Disability Criticism."

Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of
Liberty*

Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World*

Kaja Silverman, *Male Subjectivity on the Margins*

Rosemarie Garland Thomson, *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Disability in American
Culture and Literature*

Linda Williams, *Hard Core: Power, Pleasure, and the "Frenzy" of the Visible*

----- "Film Bodies: Gender, Genre, and Excess," *Film Quarterly* 44 (1991): 2-13
Zone 3-5 "Fragments for a History of the Human Body" (selections)

5. sex/gender

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

Judith Butler, *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex"*

----- *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*

----- *Undoing Gender*

Judith Butler and Joan Scott, eds. *Feminists Theorize the Political*

Hélène Cixous, *Stigmata: Escaping Texts*

Hélène Cixous and Catherine Clément, *The Newly Born Woman*

Hélène Cixous and Jacques Derrida, *Veils*

Nancy Chodorow, *The Reproduction of Mothering: Psychoanalysis and the Sociology of
Gender*

Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the
Politics of Empowerment*

Angela Davis, *Women, Race, and Class*

Dorothy Dinnerstein, *The Mermaid and the Minotaur: Sexual Arrangements and Human
Malaise*

Mary Ann Doane, *Femmes Fatales: Feminism, Film Theory, and Psychoanalysis*

Anne Fausto-Sterling, *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of
Sexuality*

Sigmund Freud, *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*

----- "The Dissolution of the Oedipus Complex"

----- *Three Essays on Sexuality*

----- "Some Psychical Consequences of the Anatomical Distinction Between the
Sexes" (1925), in *SE* 19

----- "Female Sexuality" (1931), in *SE* 21

----- "Femininity" (1933), in *SE* 22

Moira Gatens, *Imaginary Bodies: Ethics, Power, and Corporeality*

GLQ: *A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 4: 2 (1998). Special issue, "The Transgender Issue."

Donna Haraway, *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*

Heidi Hartmann, "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a More Progressive Union," in *Women and Revolution*, ed. Lydia Sargent

Gilbert Herdt, ed., *Third Sex, Third Gender: Beyond Sexual Dimorphism in Culture and History*

bell hooks, *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*
 ----- *Feminist Theory from Margins to Center*

E. Ann Kaplan, ed., *Feminism and Film*

Suzanne Kessler, *Lessons from the Intersexed*

Jacques Lacan, *Seminar XX: Encore*

Diana Leonard and Lisa Adkins, eds., *Sex in Question: French Materialist Feminism*

Reina Lewis and Sara Mills, eds., *Feminist Postcolonial Theory: A Reader*

Juliet Mitchell, *Psychoanalysis and Feminism: A Radical Reassessment of Freudian Psychoanalysis*

Toril Moi, *What is a Woman? And Other Essays*

Oyewùmí Oyèrónké, *The Invention of Women: Making an African Sense of Western Gender Discourse*

Denise Riley, "Am I That Name?": *Feminism and the Category of "Women" in History*

Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex," in *Toward an Anthropology of Women* ed. Rayna R Reiter. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1975.

----- "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality," in Carole S. Vance, eds., *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality* (Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1984), pp. 267-319.

Joan Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History*

Kaja Silverman, *The Acoustic Mirror*
 ----- *Male Subjectivity at the Margins*

Hortense Spillers, *Black, White and Color: Essays on American Literature and Culture*

Sue Thornham, ed., *Feminist Film Theory: A Reader*

Monique Wittig, *The Straight Mind*

6. sexuality/desire

Malek Alloula, *The Colonial Harem*

Georges Bataille, *Erotism: Death and Sensuality*
 ----- *The Tears of Eros*

Leo Bersani, *The Freudian Body*
 ----- "Is the Rectum a Grave?" in *AIDS : Cultural Analysis, Cultural Activism* eds. Douglas Crimp and Leo Bersani
 ----- *Homos*

Daniel Boyarin et al, eds., *Queer Theory and the Jewish Question*

Daniel Boyarin, *Unheroic Conduct: The Rise of Heterosexuality and the Invention of the Jewish Man*

Devon Carbado, *Black Men on Race, Gender, and Sexuality: A Critical Reader*

Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism*

Arnold Davidson, *The Emergence of Sexuality: Historical Epistemology and the Formation of Concepts*

Tim Dean, *Beyond Sexuality*

Tim Dean and Christopher Lane, eds., *Homosexuality and Psychoanalysis*
Diacritics 24, 2/3 (1994). Special issue. "Critical Crossings."
differences 6, 2/3 (1994). Special issue, "More Gender Trouble: Feminism Meets Queer Theory."

Carolyn Dinshaw, *Getting Medieval: Sexualities and Communities, Pre- And Postmodern*

Lee Edelman, *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive*
 ----- *Homographesis: Essays in Gay Literary and Cultural Theory*

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, Vol. 1

Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on Sexuality*
 ----- "Dissolution of the Oedipus Complex"
 ----- *Fragment of a Case of Analysis*
 ----- *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*

Diana Fuss, ed., *Inside/out: Lesbian Theories, Gay Theories*
GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies 9: 1/2 (2003). Special issue, "Desiring Disability: Queer Theory Meets Disability Studies."

David Halperin, *Saint Foucault: Toward a Gay Hagiography*
 ----- *How to Do the History of Sexuality*

John C. Hawley, ed., *Postcolonial, Queer: Theoretical Intersections*

Rosemary Hennessy, *Profit and Pleasure: Sexual Identities in Late Capitalism*

Abdul Jan Mohamed, "Sexuality On/Off the Racial Border: Foucault, Wright, and the Articulation of 'Racialized Sexuality'" in *Discourses of Sexuality*, ed., Domna Stanton

Mark Jordan, *The Silence of Sodom: Homosexuality in Modern Catholicism*

Jeffrey Kripal and T. G. Vaidyanathan, eds., *Vishnu on Freud's Desk: A Reader in Psychoanalysis and Hinduism*

Jacques Lacan, *Seminar XX: Encore*

Teresa de Lauretis, *The Practice of Love: Lesbian Sexuality and Perverse Desires*

Stephen D. Moore, *God's Beauty Parlor: And Other Queer Spaces in and Around the Bible*

Richard Rambuss, *Closet Devotions*

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Between Men: English Literature and Male Homosocial Desire*
 ----- *Epistemology of the Closet*
 ----- *Tendencies*

Valerie Traub, *The Renaissance of Lesbianism in Early Modern England*

Michael Warner, ed., *Fear of a Queer Planet: Queer Politics and Social Theory*

7. race/ethnicity

Elizabeth Abel, Barbara Christian, Helene Moglen, eds., *Female Subjects in Black and White: Race, Psychoanalysis, Feminism*

Victor Anderson, *Beyond Ontological Blackness: An Essay on African American Religious and Cultural Criticism*

Kwami Anthony Appiah, *In My Father's House: Africa in the Philosophy of Culture*

Les Back and John Solomos, eds., *Theories of Race and Racism*

Robert Bernasconi and Tommy Lee Lott, eds., *The Idea of Race*

Robert Bernasconi et al, *Race and Racism in Continental Philosophy*

Robert Bernasconi, *Race (Blackwell Readings in Continental Philosophy)*

Celia Brickman, *Aboriginal Populations in the Mind: Race and Primitivity in Psychoanalysis*

Hazel Carby, *Reconstructing Womanhood: The Emergence of the Afro-American Woman Novelist*

Anne Anlin Cheng, *The Melancholy of Race: Psychoanalysis, Assimilation, and Hidden Grief*

Rey Chow, *Ethics After Idealism: Theory, Culture, Ethnicity, Reading*

----- *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

----- "When Whiteness Feminizes . . . : Some Consequences of a Supplementary Logic," *differences* 11 (1999/2000): 137-68

Critical Inquiry 12 (1985). Special Issue, "'Race', Writing, and Difference."

W. E. B. Dubois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*

----- *The Wretched of the Earth*

Martin J. Favor, *Authentic Blackness: The Folk in the New Negro Renaissance*

Paul Gilroy, *Against Race: Imagining Political Culture Beyond the Color Line*

----- *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*

Stuart Hall, "Gramsci's Relevance to the Study of Race and Ethnicity," *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 10 (1986): 5-27

Saidiya V. Hartman, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America*

Christopher Lane, ed., *The Psychoanalysis of Race*

Lisa Lowe, *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics*

Anne McLintock, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*

Charles Mills, *From Class to Race: Essays in White Marxism and Black Radicalism*

----- *Blackness Visible: Essays on Philosophy and Race*

Michael Omi and Howard Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States*

Craig Prentiss, ed., *Religion and the Creation of Race and Ethnicity*

Kalpana Seshadri-Crooks, *Desiring Whiteness: A Lacanian Analysis of Race*

Ann Laura Stoler, *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things*

----- *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*

Howard Winant, *The New Politics of Race*

8. class/social stratification

Louis Althusser, *For Marx*

----- *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*

Kevin Bales, *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*

Etienne Balibar, *Masses, Classes, Ideas: Studies on Politics and Philosophy before and After Marx*
 ----- *Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities*
 ----- *We, the People of Europe?: A Reflection on Transnational Citizenship*
 Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*
 Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Rethinking Working-Class History*
 Teresa L. Ebert, *Ludic Feminism and After: Postmodernism, Labor, and Desire in Late Capitalism*
 Michel Foucault, *Remarks on Marx: Conversations with Duccio Trombadori, R. James Goldstein and James Cascaito*
 Nancy Fraser, *Justice Interruptus: Critical Reflections on the "Postsocialist" Condition*
 Nancy Fraser and Axel Honneth, *Redistribution or Recognition: A Political-Philosophical Exchange*
 Antonio Gramsci, *The Prison Notebooks*
 Rosemary Hennessy, *Materialist Feminism and the Politics of Discourse*
 Rosemary Hennessy and Chrys Ingraham, eds., *Materialist Feminism: A Reader in Class, Difference, and Women's Lives*
 bell hooks, *Where We Stand: Class Matters*
 Fredric Jameson, *Postmodernism, Or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*
 ----- *A Singular Modernity: Essay on the Ontology of the Present*
 Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe, *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy: Towards a Radical Democratic Politics*
 David Lloyd and Lisa Lowe, eds., *The Politics of Culture in the World of Capital: Worlds Aligned*
 Georg Lukács, *History and Class Consciousness*
 E. San Juan, *Beyond Postcolonial Theory*
 Jacques Rancière, *The Philosopher and his Poor*
 E. P. Thompson, *Making of the English Working Class*
 Robert C. Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*
 Max Weber, "Class, Status, Party," in *Essays in Economic Sociology*, ed. Richard Swedberg
 Cornel West, *Prophesy Deliverance: An Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity*
 ----- "Black Theology and Marxist Thought" and "Black Theology of Liberation as Critique of Capitalist Civilization," both in *Black Theology: A Documentary History*, ed. James Cone and Gayraud Wilmore
 Raymond Williams, *Culture and Society, 1780-1950*
 ----- *Resources of Hope: Culture, Democracy, Socialism*